



Ø BEAT



COLO. SPRINGS,
COLORADO

AUGUST

1976

MEETING NOTICE - Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will meet this month on August 11th at 7:30 P.M. in the Security Savings & Loan Building, East Platte at Union Boulevard. Any person interested in Amateur radio is invited to attend.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Bill Croghan, WBØKSW: Another busy month. National ARRL Convention saw lots of folks in Denver. Me, especially, drooling over all the new goodies. There was a successful jamming transmitter hunt in July (reported elsewhere in ZERO BEAT by K6DBR/Ø) and August 1st saw a group working on communications for the Pikes Peak Marathon.

There is lots of Technician activity showing up on HF with the new regulations. Look for me most any night near 21.145 MHz. Next Novice classes will start in September and with my new job as a traveling photographer, Chuck, WAØNBZ and Dave, WBØTAQ are going to need more help. Don't forget the annual club picnic on August 22nd!

ARRL NATIONAL drew about 2500 registrants, the highest official attendance ever for a League national convention! Forums were quite popular - Lew McCoy's antenna discussion pulled an SRO crowd of about 1200 - and exhibitors were well pleased with the quality of the action in their booths. The convention's balloon-borne repeater only reached an estimated 38,000 feet, but still provided very good coverage with "DX" contacts to Minnesota and North Dakota reported before the machine dropped into rugged foothill country and went off the air. Anticipated union problems failed to materialize, and exhibitor as well as attendee arrangements went extremely smoothly. Congratulations to the Denver gang for a first-class operation!

HR REPORT

NOVICE PHONE PRIVILEGES are to be proposed to the FCC by the ARRL. The League Board of Directors voted in Denver to petition the Commission to immediately

ZERO BEAT

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The PPRAA meets at 7:30 P.M. on the second
Wednesday of each month in the Security
Savings & Loan Building, East Platte at
Union Boulevard.

PPRAA DIRECTORS

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add 145-145.5 and 222-225 MHz CW, AM and FM with 50 watts DC input to the
Novice frequency bands.

HR REPORT

THE TRANSMITTER HUNT "FOR REAL" by Dick, K6DBR/Ø : On Sunday, July 18, 1975
at approximately 3:00 P.M., a weak carrier appeared on the input to 16/76.
The carrier was modulated at first by the voices of several people and a bark-
ing dog. After the first few minutes of signal, the carrier went unmodulated.
It remained on 146.16 with no apparent attempt to disguise its location. Both
the Colorado Springs and Boulder repeaters were locked up.


About 6:00 P.M., the word went out to find and stop the carrier if at all pos-
sible. Mike, KØTER, started telephoning people in the Springs. Boulder too,
started to organize their hunters. About 7:00 the Colorado Springs team was
on the move. The team consisted of Dick, K6DBR/Ø driving and turning beam,
Mike, KØTER as co-pilot and in charge of the receiver and attenuators. Bill,
WBØKSW and Brad, WBØOYX were the back seat intelligence crew along with Michelle
Mike's daughter. The equipment was: Car - K6DBR/Ø, '69 Chevy with inoper-
ative alternator; Antenna - WA2OOD/Ø, home brew 4 element beam; Receiver -
KØTER, TR22 with 16 receive; Attenuator - K6DBR, home brew 10/20/20/30/30 db.

Several people in the Springs with base stations took readings on the signal.
The general consensus was that the signal was strongest towards the mountains.
The team discussed the facts: (1) Both repeaters were being keyed, (2) The

signals in the Springs were strongest towards the west, (3) The voices heard on the carrier, (4) Boulder felt the signal was south of them. After considering the above, it was decided to proceed north to Monument Hill to see what would happen. We knew that if the signal originated in the mountains it would be very difficult to isolate. As we proceeded north the signal kept pointing towards the mountains. After we crested Monument Hill, the signal gained a good 10 db in strength and pointed due north. At this point the adrenalin started flowing. We knew we had made the right decision in going north. As we continued north, the signal started to turn east. About 10 miles north of Monument Hill, the signal was about 20 db over S9 and perpendicular to I-25 (eastward). We took the first exit and drove up and down several dirt roads.

We eventually got to a point where the signal saturated the receiver with maximum attenuation. This caused considerable problems in direction finding and since the Boulder hunters were just a few miles away on I-25, we decided to direct them into the area and pool our capabilities. We went back to I-25, met with the Boulder hunters and returned to the location where the signal was so hot. The signal appeared to be coming from the immediate area. We had already checked one house without any results. The Boulder people charged up the road to another house. Nothing there either. We headed down another road, trying to take readings. Mike was turning on more attenuation in the antenna line to try to keep the signal below saturation of the receiver. About a quarter of a mile down the road he gave up. The receiver was saturated with no antenna. We were close to a house with lights on and we figured this had to be it.

We drove up their driveway very carefully while the dog barked at us from the yard. We called the Boulder crew on 52 to let them know where we were. This looked like the right place and there was a car in the driveway with a 2 meter 5/8 whip. Several people came out of the house. My first question was "Could I get out of the car?" (the dog looked mean); the second question "Are you a ham?" brought the answer "no". The third question "Do you have a ham visiting you?" brought the answer "Yes, my cousin.". The fourth question, "Could I talk to him?", Answer, "Sure." His cousin came over to the cars. We asked if he had a 2 meter rig in the car and if he could show it to us. He said he did and opened the door to the car and pointed to the rig. We noted that the mike was partially covered under a large towel. We asked him to turn off the rig. He said he did not remember it being on. It was. He turned it off. Guess what? The signal stopped! When we told him it was keying up two repeaters since about 3:00 P.M., he was one very embarrassed ham. It appeared obvious to us that there was no intent to cause interference. We did not get



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his call because we did not want to further embarrass him. I believe he will be more careful in the future.

This transmitter hunt had a happy ending. However, it could have gone the other way. We were not totally prepared for the hunt with equipment, clothing, etc. I suggest that we organize a more professional group of hunters with the right equipment. The present Fox hunts, usually held the last Sunday of each month, are an ideal starting point. More on this subject in the next issue of ZERO BEAT. The cooperation between the Colorado Springs and the Boulder people proved to be a perfect example of hams banding together to solve a common problem. Lets keep this going!

DRAKE'S NEW TWO METER PORTABLE, the TR-33C, will break in August ads and be available about September 1. The 12-channel portable closely resembles Drake's earlier Kenwood-made TR-22C but uses only a single crystal for both receive and transmit on each channel. A function switch selects simplex, plus or minus 600 kHz repeater offset, or optional "oddball" repeater offsets. Other features of the new 1.5 A rig are a new low-drain receiver circuit and optional antennas -- it'll sell for \$229.95 complete with .52 and .94 crystals.

HR REPORT

IT'S PICNIC TIME! -Lou Preller, WØPCZ, Picnic Chairman announces the following about the annual PPRAA picnic: Where - Black Forest Picnic Grounds; When- Sunday, August 22; Time - 10:00 A.M. on; Who - PPRAA members and family and any other hams who wish to attend; Special Events - A foot fox hunt, swapfest, games and lots of food and drinks. Hamburgers, watermelon and drinks will be furnished by PPRAA. Bring your own silverware and plates. A small charge will be made - amount to be determined but probably around \$1.50 per family. A good time is guaranteed for all!

JULY MINUTES by Dave Allen, WBØTAQ, acting Secretary: The meeting was called to order by President Bill Croghan, WBØKSW at 7:35 P.M. with 40 members and guests attending, including some passing through on their way to the ARRL Convention in Denver that following weekend.....June minutes were accepted..... Vince, WB2JOJ/Ø reported on the services provided the Confederate Air Force at their air show July 3rd and 5th. A good showing of 8 to 9 amateurs provided critical auto-patches (no landlines were available at location). Mike Stansberry, KØTER reported how much those who participated enjoyed it.....Chas., WBØOCJ reported on the Pike's Peak Hillclimb--fair turnout and success, using the 37-97 repeater.....Mike Stansberry reported on Field Day. Those who missed it, missed a lot. The CW station, with admirable contributions from Chuck Waltman, AAØNBZ and Bob Poirier, ABØQOT, whumped the two fone stations 1130 to 850 points (the CW contests counting two points each). Total for the club was 4090. OSCAR was worked with a handheld beam with some success and a lot of instructional value (for next time). Novice turnout was the best ever..... Chuck, NBZ reported for the instruction committee -- that most of the WNØT -- calls are graduates of the class and more are still waiting for their calls, for a total of about 25. Already there is a lot of interest in next year's classes, which should start mid-September. Contact Chuck or Bill Croghan, who are planning two code classes, a rules and theory class, and operation of the code practice transmitter (VHF).....Dean Jaynes, WAØPJH, Treasurer, reported two new memberships, but that ZERO BEAT costs moved the balance down from \$410.20 to \$361.72.....Mike Stansberry put in a request for reimbursement or private donations to compensate him for his "contribution" of 15 gallons of gas used for Field Day. Mike will also be working on the Pike's Peak Marathon

on August 1st with quite a group of folks since it will require more communications than in the past.....Woodcutting was commented on -- WX HOT ES QRL.Discussion on the shopping center display/activity was postponed until Lyle Rockerfeller, WBØNDI gets off vacation.....Lou Preller, WØPCZ offered to get together a picnic.....A transmitter hunt is planned for August.....Chuck Myers, WAØZCS told all about the upcoming ARRL National Convention.....New Business: Chas., OCJ reported a personal dissatisfaction with several articles in the July ZERO BEAT which put the Citizens Band Radio Service (my term) in a bad light. This met with considerable debate and a motion to prohibit anything to do with CB from being in ZERO BEAT. This met with considerable debate and an ammendment was made that a suggestion be made to the editor that more discretion be exercised, which met again with considerable debate.....The meeting was adjourned, but I think I lost track of the time.....Ray Uberech, WØUYZ gave an amazing presentation on construction and operation of converters and on simple, homebuilt test equipment, which can be used to do very sophisticated jobs (which is no problem if the constructor also has the genius and creativity of Ray!)

FOR SALE: Swan 240 with AC-117 power supply. A good 80-40-20 SSB rig with 175 satts PEP. \$180.00. Phone Ed Means, WAØHFJ at 471-1277.

WANTED: Heathkit SB630 console. Selling 18 AVT and radials. Phone Dave, WBØFAO at 471-7024.

ANOTHER FOX HUNT paid off when the "White Knight" appeared on Indianapolis' 16-76 repeater. After friendly chatter from his new "good buddies" the stray Cber was surrounded by W9NIO, WA9SZL, WB9OFG, WB9ONT and WB9BZG. Police were called and found K9OXA's HH-212 and GLB, a tape deck and possible drugs. Thanks to K9DUR.

HR REPORT

"TUNE IN THE WORLD WITH HAM RADIO" is now being widely distributed but is taking some knocks from critical reviewers. It's beautifully packaged but the experienced eye can quickly uncover a number of rough spots in the League's new Novice booklet. For example, it starts the chapter on CW with a lengthy discussion of "Q" Signals and the chapter on getting on the air by going into the whys and wherefores of neutralization -- and there's some real confusion in the comparison between fast and slow scan TV. However, the course's true measure is in how well it does what it's supposed to do and first reports are that it's really turning the beginners on!. Young and old alike like it and find it challenging, and that's exactly what it's supposed to be. The rough edges are supposed to be polished off in a revision that's already under way. The first printing came out the way it did because of the timetable crunch, but even in its present form "Tune In the World With Ham Radio" still looks like a winner!

HR REPORT

AMATEURS APPLYING to the FCC for license renewal, modification or orther action should always try to pay by personal check. The returned cancelled check provides assurance that your application made it through the mail, and may even prove you've paid if your paperwork later gets lost in the system. "Straight Forward" license processing is now down to 7-8 weeks for most applicants, according to late reader reports. Anyone who has been waiting longer than 12 weeks for an Amateur license should probably call FCC at 202 632-7175 for help.

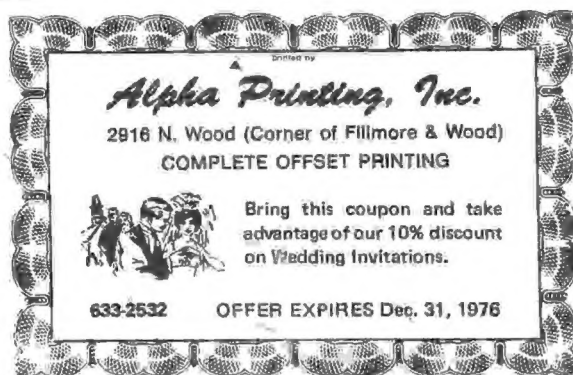
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AUGUST
1976



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